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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 10/720,944 | 11/24/2003 | Craig L. Reding | 03-1026 | 5267 |
| 32127 | 7590 | 11/23/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| VERIZON LEGAL DEPARTMENT PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1320 N. COURTHOUSE ROAD 9TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2525 | | | | ADDY, THJUAN KNOWLIN |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 2614 | | | | |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 11/23/2009 | ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@VERIZON.COM

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/720,944 | REDING ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | THJUAN K. ADDY | 2614 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/20/2004; 02/08/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on January 09, 2009 has been entered. Claims 1, 11, 12, 21, 23, and 34 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-34 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 being independent.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/09/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sussman (US 5,483,586).
4. In regards to claims 1, 12, 23, and 34, Sussman discloses a method and system for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users of a communications network (See Fig. 1 and Common Carrier Telecommunications Switching Network {CCTSN} 4) (See Abstract), comprising: receiving first user (See Fig. 1 and residential subscriber 5) line management information (e.g., subscriber information), for a first user of the communications line, specifying a first handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts (e.g., telephone numbers) in a first address book (e.g., residential subscriber directory), associated with the first user (See col. 2 lines 56-57; col. 3 lines 18-20; and col. 5 lines 48-59); receiving second user (See Fig. 1 and business subscriber) line management information (e.g., subscriber information), for a second user of the communications line, specifying a second handling of calls received on the communications line for contacts (e.g., telephone numbers) in a second address book (e.g., business subscriber directory) distinct from the first address book and associated with the second user (See col. 2 lines 58-60;

col. 3 lines 16-18; and col. 5 lines 48-59); receiving from the communications network information regarding a call directed to the communications line; determining a handling procedure for the call based on the received first and second user line management information; and transmitting to the communications network instructions regarding the determined handling procedure, such that the communications network handles the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure (See col. 5 lines 48-59).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-11, 13-22, and 24-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sussman (US 5,483,586), in view of Frey et al. (US 6,535,596).

6. In regards to claims 2, 13, and 24, Sussman discloses all of claims 2, 13, and 24 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call received on the communications line includes receiving information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving from the

communications network information regarding a call received on the communications line includes receiving information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line (See col. 4 lines 12-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature within the system, as a way of providing a standard component of an intelligent network telephone system which is used to control the service(s).

7. In regards to claims 3, 14, and 25, Sussman discloses all of claims 3, 14, and 25 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes receiving information identifying an origination of the call; and wherein determining a handling procedure includes determining a handling procedure based on the information identifying the origination of the call. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes receiving information identifying an origination of the call; and wherein determining a handling procedure includes determining a handling procedure based on the information identifying the origination of the call (See col. 7-8 lines 59-9 and col. 10 lines 14-19).

8. In regards to claims 4, 15, and 26, Sussman discloses all of claims 4, 15, and 26 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes

receiving information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line (See col. 10 lines 4-10 and col. 10 lines 20-31).

9. In regards to claims 5, 16, and 27, Sussman discloses all of claims 5, 16, and 27 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling calls based on the time the call is received. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling calls based on the time the call is received (See col. 10 lines 14-16).

10. In regards to claims 6, 17, and 28, Sussman discloses all of claims 6, 17, and 28 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services (See col. 8 lines 58-64).

11. In regards to claims 7, 18, and 29, Sussman discloses all of claims 7, 18, and 29 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to at least one processor for playing an audible signal indicating unavailability of the communications line. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to at least one processor for

playing an audible signal indicating unavailability of the communications line (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

12. In regards to claims 8, 19, and 30, Sussman discloses all of claims 8, 19, and 30 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving first user line management information includes receiving a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving first user line management information includes receiving a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

13. In regards to claims 9, 20, and 31, Sussman discloses all of claims 9, 20, and 31 limitations, except the method and system, further comprising: receiving, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call; and wherein the determined handling procedure is based on the received instruction. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, further comprising: receiving, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call; and wherein the determined handling procedure is based on the received instruction (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

14. In regards to claims 10, 21, and 32, Sussman discloses all of claims 10, 21, and 32 limitations, except the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary

handling procedure; and wherein determining a handling procedure of the call includes determining whether to handle the call using the primary or secondary handling procedure. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary handling procedure; and wherein determining a handling procedure of the call includes determining whether to handle the call using the primary or secondary handling procedure (See col. 10 lines 4-19).

15. In regards to claims 11, 22, and 33, Sussman discloses all of claims 11, 22, and 33 limitations, except the method and system, wherein the receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling of calls based upon information regarding a location of the first or second user. Frey, however, does disclose the method and system, wherein the receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling of calls based upon information regarding a location of the first or second user (See col. 10 lines 14-17).

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

18. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

19. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614